

To: Peterson, Cynthia[Peterson.Cynthia@epa.gov]
From: Chase Olivarius-McAllister
Sent: Mon 2/2/2015 11:43:27 PM
Subject: Durango Herald - questions

Dear Cynthia,

Thank you so much for taking the time to speak with me on the phone.

At the most recent meeting of the Animas River Stakeholders Group, Paula Schmidil said:

"I think one thing you can look at is the [OPEC] model that was presented last September. That demonstrates that not all the contamination is coming from Cement Creek. So addressing - just focusing on Cement Creek - may not get us to where everybody would like to be an improvement in Animas River water quality."

Over the course of the last two years, in previous interviews, EPA officials and scientists have always said that Cement Creek is the crux of problem in the Animas River.

Is there new data to suggest that it isn't? Why is the EPA seemingly changing its interpretation of what's causing the environmental damage to the Upper Animas River?

Sources close to the ARSG have characterized Schmidil's statement as a "departure" for the EPA, and some say the EPA's seemingly new stance is more congenial to Sunnyside's inisistence that it is not liable for metal loading in the Upper Animas.

What is the EPA's opinion of Sunnyside's liability?

I'm on deadline. Please get back to me this evening or latest tomorrow morning. If you feel uncomfortable commenting on certain questions, feel free to simply respond that you do not feel comfortable commenting.

Yours,
Chase

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